



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Injured Climber Rescued from Middle Teton

Grand Teton National Park rangers rescued an injured climber from the Southwest Couloir on the Middle Teton on Friday, July 9. Twenty-year-old Luis Lopez DeObeso, visiting from Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, was climbing with eleven other companions when he slipped on hard-packed snow and could not successfully use an ice axe to arrest his slide on the icy conditions. DeObeso injured an ankle when he hit some rocks. Since he could not walk out of the backcountry on his own, rangers evacuated him by helicopter.

Park rangers climbing in the vicinity of the Southwest Couloir responded and provided basic medical assistance to the injured DeObeso at approximately 10:50 a.m. Due to the nature of his injured ankle and deteriorating weather conditions, a decision was made to evacuate DeObeso by air. He was placed in a Teton Interagency contract helicopter and flown to the park's Lupine Meadows rescue facility at 12:30 p.m.

DeObeso and his climbing companions are part of an alpine club of Mexico. Fifty members of the group are visiting Grand Teton National Park and were hiking in and around Garnet Canyon at the time of the accident.

This marks the fifth major search and rescue operation in the park this year.

Snow conditions in the backcountry are variable and icy areas can be encountered on many snowfields and couloirs, especially in shaded areas. Hikers and climbers are urged to use caution when crossing any snowy areas and to carry an ice axe and know how to use it.

Grand Teton National Park 75th Anniversary ~ 1929-2004
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